ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A MOUNTAIN
WITH A TEMPLE ON IT.
TWO PRIESTS LIVED INSIDE THE TEMPLE.
THEY DIDN'T LIVE THERE AS PART OF THEIR CREDO. BUT IN ORDER TO EAT PEOPLE.

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THAT'S RIGHT. WE'RE DEMONS.
THE SAME DEMONS THAT INHABIT THE BODIES OF LIVING THINGS.
THE STUFF OF LEGENDS. THE FEARSOME-LOOKING, MAGIC-WIELDING SPIRITS THAT HURT PEOPLE.
妖
BUT MY BRETHREN AND I NEVER DID ANYTHING TO HARM ANYONE. AT LEAST, WE DIDN'T BEFORE.

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WE USED TO EAT MICE, RABBITS, SPARROWS AND SUCH. BUT AFTER MOVING TO THE TEMPLE...
SUPPLIES RAN SHORT. WE WERE EATING MICE DAY AFTER DAY.
MICE AGAIN. WHEN WILL IT END?
UGH...
TICK TICK
MY BROTHER COULDN'T TAKE IT ANY LONGER. I THOUGHT IT WAS FINE
IN ORDER TO IMPROVE OUR MEALS...
UGH
SIGH
BROTHER SAID TO JUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TEMPLE TO EAT TRAVELERS.

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BUT ONLY THREE PEOPLE CAME IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.
GREAT TEA.
AN OLD LADY
WHAT ELSE DO YOU GOT?
A SLOB
ZHU XI ONCE SAID, "A DROP OF WATER SHALL BE... SHALL BE... WHAT WAS IT...?
SOME SKINNY SCHOLAR
WHO WOULD WANT TO EAT THEM?!

WHERE'S ALL THE SUCCULENT HUMAN FLESH?!
IT WAS SO HARD CHANGING INTO HUMAN FORM AND RENOVATING THE TEMPLE TO ATTRACT HUMANS
BROTHER, HAVE SOME MICE.
WAHHH
SCREW YOUR MICE!
BANG
I WANT TO EAT MANFLESH! SUPPLE, TENDER MANFLESH!
BUT WE'RE ON A REMOTE MOUNTAIN. WHERE WOULD WE FIND SO MANY...
KNOCK KNOCK

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COMING!
QUICK! GO GET THE DOOR. I CAN'T DO IT.
RIGHT, RIGHT. REMEMBER TO HIDE YOUR TAIL.
TURN YOUR SNOUT BACK INTO YOUR HUMAN NOSE.
KNOCK KNOCK
GREETINGS. ARE YOU IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE?
HOW MANY OF YOU ARE THERE?

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UM. GOOD EVENING.
I GOT LOST ON THIS MOUNTAIN. I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD...
OF COURSE YOU CAN.
ONLY ONE PERSON. THAT'S JUST AN APPETIZER.
TH-THANK YOU.
GOOD THING SHE'S NOT TOO OLD. SHE LOOKS TENDER, TOO.
PLEASE, COME IN. FEEL AT HOME.

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MY NAME IS XIAO YAN. I WAS OUT FOR A LITTLE HIKE ON MY OWN WHEN I GOT LOST.
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
I GOT SO SCARED WHEN NIGHT FELL. GOOD THING I FOUND THIS TEMPLE...

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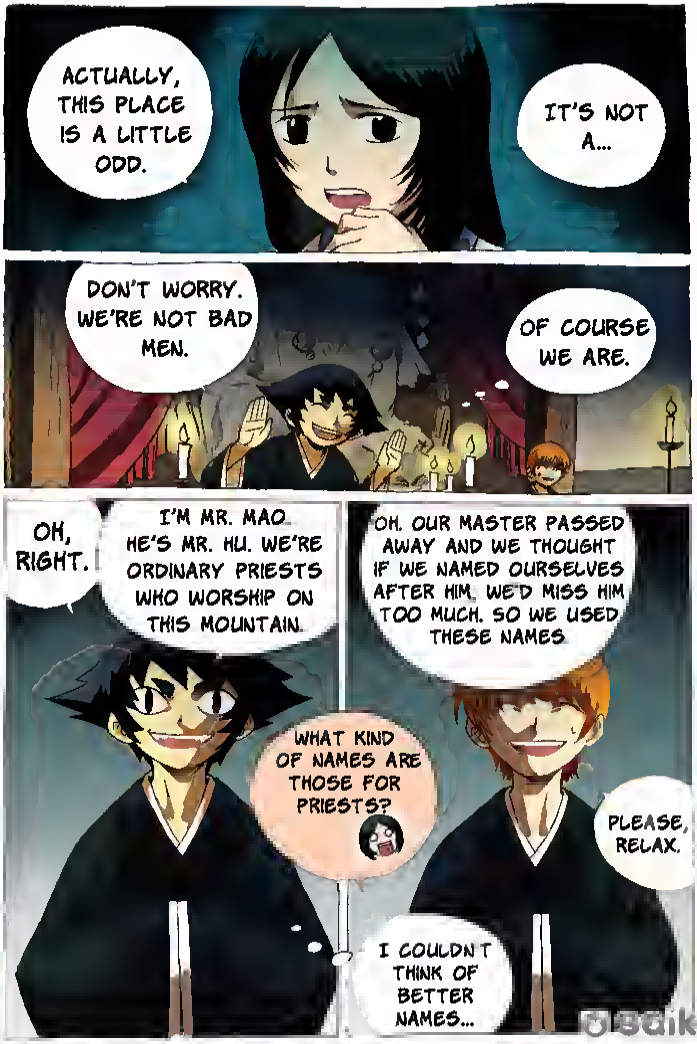
ACTUALLY, THIS PLACE IS A LITTLE ODD.
IT'S NOT A...
DON'T WORRY. WE'RE NOT BAD MEN.
OF COURSE WE ARE.
OH, RIGHT.
I'M MR. MAO. HE'S MR. HU. WE'RE ORDINARY PRIESTS WHO WORSHIP ON THIS MOUNTAIN.
OH. OUR MASTER PASSED AWAY AND WE THOUGHT IF WE NAMED OURSELVES AFTER HIM, WE'D MISS HIM TOO MUCH. SO WE USED THESE NAMES.
WHAT KIND OF NAMES ARE THOSE FOR PRIESTS?
PLEASE, RELAX.
I COULDN'T THINK OF BETTER NAMES...

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OH. I SEE...
THAT'S RIGHT. NOW PLEASE HAVE A SEAT.
VERY WELL.
ACTUALLY, THERE AREN'T ANY DANGEROUS BEASTS ON THIS MOUNTAIN
BUT EVERY NOW AND THEN...
WHAT IS IT?
SOME DEMONS WILL APPEAR. HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ONE?

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NOW...
HOLD IT.
YOU MUST BE HUNGRY, YOUNG LADY. WE'LL MAKE SOME FOOD FOR YOU.
OH...
IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE...
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
REALLY? WE DON'T HAVE ANY HUMAN FOOD HERE.
ONCE SHE'S FULL AND CLEANED UP SHE'LL TASTE BETTER. LET'S JUST COOK WHAT WE HAVE.
.....

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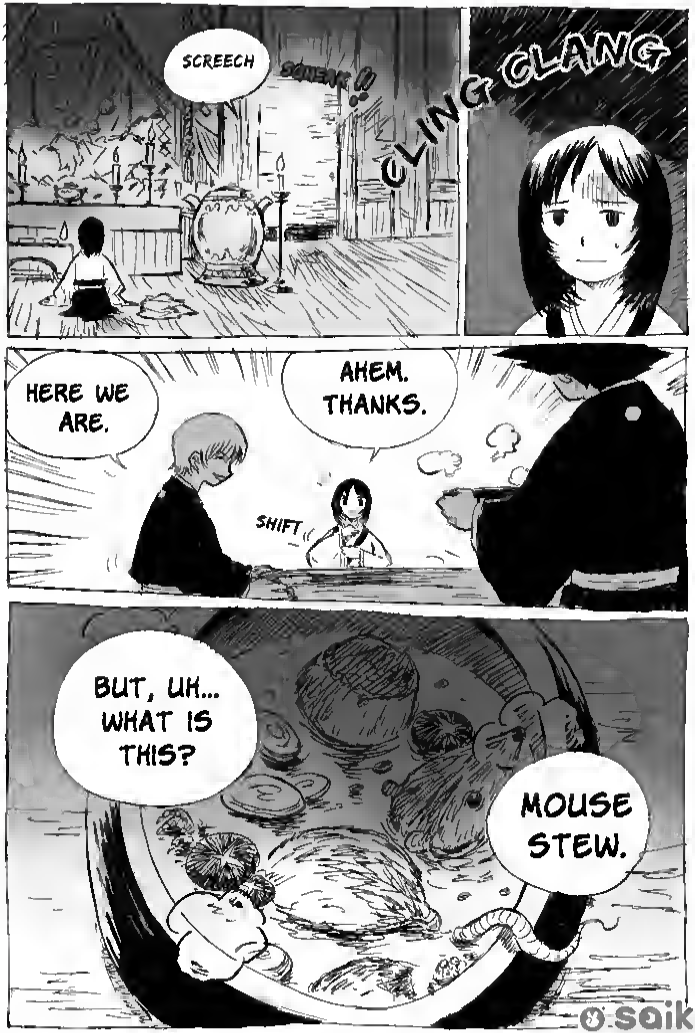

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AREN'T-
AREN'T YOU GUYS PRIESTS? SHOULDN'T YOU BE VEGETARIAN?
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THE SAYING "THE HEART OF BUDDHA IS WITHIN MEAT"?
WHAT SECT ARE YOU GUYS?
WE FOLLOW A FORM OF BUDDHISM.
DON'T BE PUT OFF BY THE KIND OF MEAT IT IS. I ADDED GINSENG, SHIITAKE, AND WOLFBERRY. IT'S DELICIOUS AND NUTRITIOUS
AS YOU WILL BE.
UH, THANKS.
BUT I'VE LOST MY APPETITE.

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SHE LOST HER APPETITE JUST BY LOOKING AT IT. HUMANS ARE STRANGE CREATURES.
THAT'S OKAY
WELL THEN...
YOU'RE COVERED IN DUST. HOW ABOUT YOU WASH UP?
I AM PRETTY DIRTY.
IF YOU DON'T MIND...

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OF COURSE NOT. THIS WAY, PLEASE.
PLEASE COME IN
THE WATER'S HEATED UP ALREADY. ENJOY YOUR BATH.
WE'LL GIVE YOU SOME PRIVACY.
OH YEAH. YOU GUYS WON'T PEEP ON ME, RIGHT?
OF COURSE NOT. WE'RE PRIESTS.

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MAYBE BEFORE WE EAT HER, WE COULD-
HEY. COME LOOK AT THIS.
I'VE BEEN THINKING. LET'S COOK HER IN A STEW.
HUH?
CHOP HER INTO LITTLE PIECES AND THROW HER IN THE POT. ADD SCALLIONS, ANISE, CINNAMON AND GARLIC
THEN ADD RICE WINE AND FRESH WATER. SIMMER ON LOW HEAT FOR AN HOUR. THEN ADD SALT AND INCREASE THE TEMPERATURE

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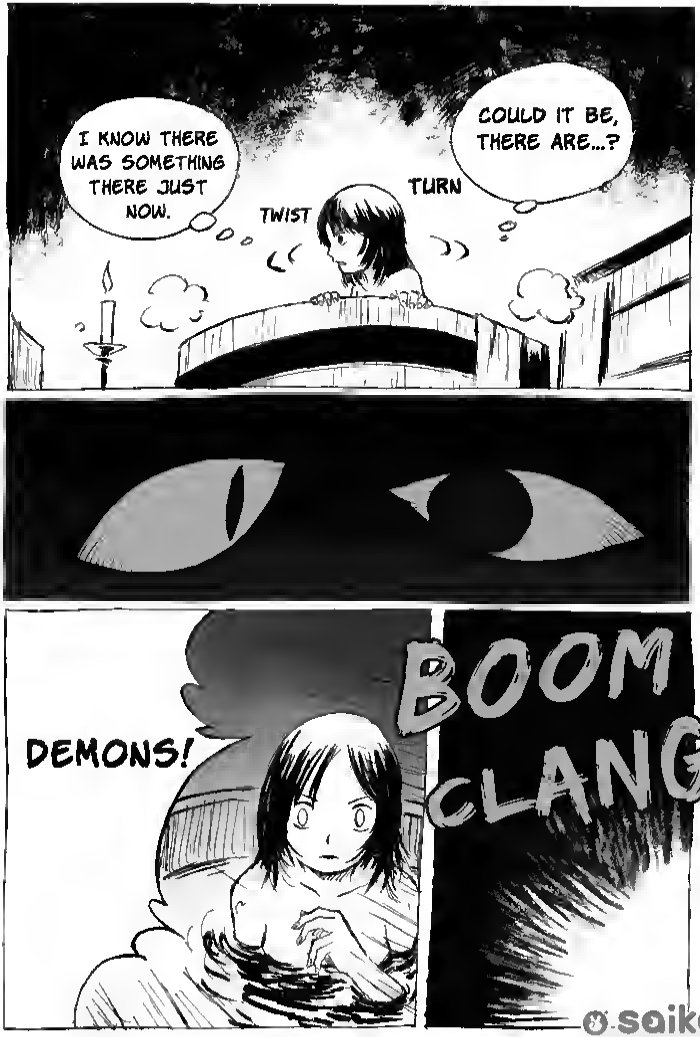
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU'RE LUCKY I PULLED YOU BACK HERE. WHY ARE YOU SO IMPATIENT?
I'M STARVING. CAN'T CONTROL MYSELF.
WE'RE GONNA EAT HER REGARDLESS. WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?
HUMANS ARE DIFFERENT. IF WE SCARE HER, SHE'LL TASTE BAD.
I THINK WE'VE RAISED HER SUSPICIONS, THOUGH. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?



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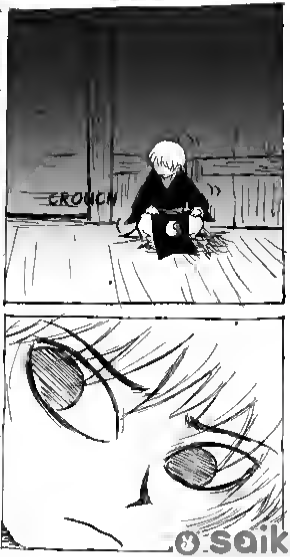
DON'T WORRY, YOUNG LADY. A DEMON JUST SCUTTLED IN. MR. MAO WENT TO GO CATCH HIM
I'M GUARDING THIS DOOR. IF THE DEMON COMES, I'LL DESTROY IT.
WE CAN MAKE OUR MOVE AFTER SHE FALLS ASLEEP.



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MR. HU, WAS THERE REALLY A DEMON JUST NOW?
YOU MIGHT NOT BELIEVE IT, BUT THERE REALLY ARE DEMONS. BUT AS LONG AS MR. MAO AND I ARE HERE,
WE'LL DESTROY THEM ALL. RELAX.
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO DESTROY THEM?
DRESS
BECAUSE... THEY KILL PEOPLE.
AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF THEM?

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NOT EXACTLY.
DO YOU THINK ALL HUMANS WOULD BE TERRIFIED IF THEY SAW A DEMON?
THEY WOULDN'T?
DON'T ALL HUMANS SEE DEMONS AS VILLAINS THAT SHOULD BE KILLED?
I MEAN, MOST AVERAGE PEOPLE.
IS THAT REALLY WHAT YOU BELIEVE?

HUMANS WERE BORN TO BE DEMON FOOD.
I... I'M NOT SURE.
ACTUALLY, THERE ARE EVEN MORE
TERRIFYING THINGS IN THIS WORLD THAN MAN-EATING DEMONS.

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BANDITS KILLED BOTH MY PARENTS AND DESTROYED OUR HOUSE.
I LOST MY BROTHER IN THE MAYHEM, TOO.
BUT...
HM?
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR PUTTING UP WITH ME TODAY.
IT'S NOTHING.

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I'LL STAY TONIGHT AND BE OFF FIRST THING IN THE MORNING TOMORROW.
TOMORROW MORNING?
YES.
SO YOU WERE SEARCHING AROUND LATE AT NIGHT IN THESE MOUNTAINS LOOKING FOR YOUR BROTHER?
YES.
BUT...

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BUT THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR A YOUNG WOMAN LIKE YOU. WHAT IF...
WHAT IF SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED TO YOU...?
BUT I'M STILL ALIVE, AREN'T I? EVEN IF I WAS DOOMED, I'D STILL KEEP ON LIVING
UNTIL I FOUND MY BROTHER AND BROUGHT HIM TO SOME PLACE SAFE.
HUMANS AREN'T FOOD, YOU IDIOT.

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ALTHOUGH THEY'RE WEAK AND HAVE SHORT LIVES,
THEY STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE AND THEY REVERE US.
COME WITH ME!
?
MR. HU, WHAT ARE YOU-
NO QUESTIONS. I'LL EXPLAIN LATER.
YOU CAN'T STAY HERE.
HUH? WHY?
HEY!

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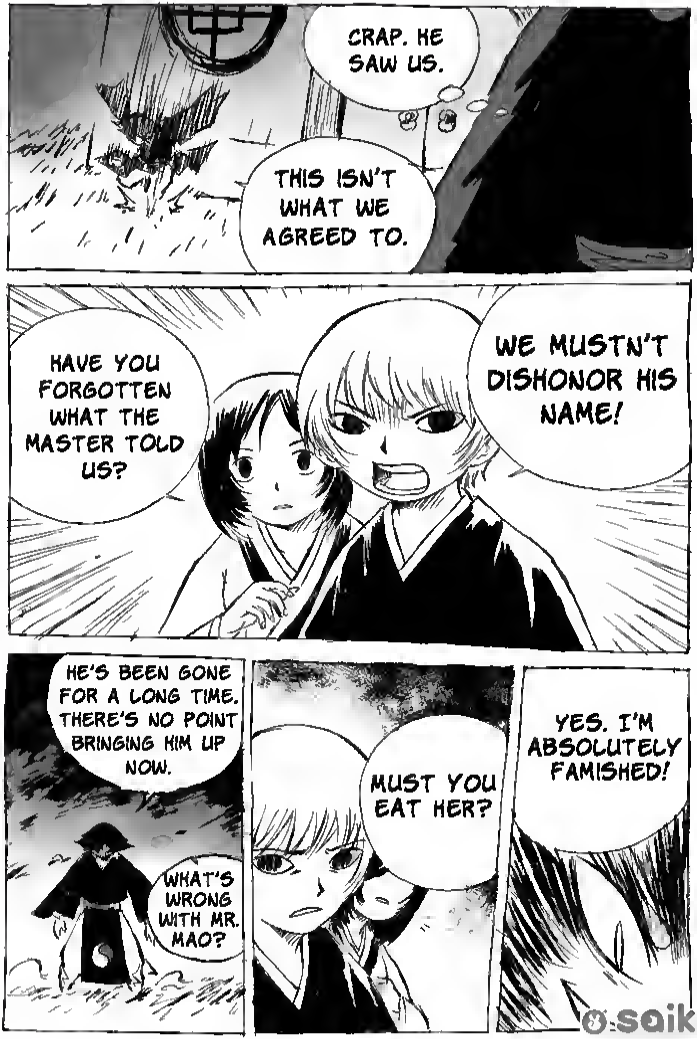
CRAP. HE SAW US.
THIS ISN'T WHAT WE AGREED TO.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHAT THE MASTER TOLD US?
WE MUSTN'T DISHONOR HIS NAME!
HE'S BEEN GONE FOR A LONG TIME. THERE'S NO POINT BRINGING HIM UP NOW.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH MR. MAO?
MUST YOU EAT HER?
YES. I'M ABSOLUTELY FAMISHED!

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A- A DEMON!
DON'T WORRY.
I WON'T LET HIM HARM YOU.
THE TWO OF YOU WERE DEMONS ALL ALONG!
YOU LITTLE BRAT. YOU'D DARE FIGHT ME FOR A HUMAN GIRL!
IT'S TIME YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON!
SORRY, BROTHER.

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